

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



471434

RECEIVED

JUN 24 1977

DISTRICT 3  
WATER QUALITY DIV.

June 21, 1977

TO: Wayne Denniston

FROM: Karl Zollner, Jr.

SUBJECT: Union Steel Products Company, Division of Eagle Pitcher Industries

The Point Source Studies Unit during a recent industrial wastewater survey discovered that cyanide and chromium sludges from this company have been used to plug dry oil or gas wells in the Albion area. Sam Alquire of Geology Division in a May 19, 1977 response to questions raised by our Division states that this practice has gone on for a number of years and many wells have been filled in this manner. He also indicates that it is possible that these materials may have been used to fill to the surface.

Our District staff feels, and we strongly agree, that this practice must be immediately stopped to protect against possible groundwater contamination.

We would ask you to communicate this matter to Mr. Courchaine and have him write to Mr. Slaughter, Chief of the Geology Division. We feel a memorandum from Mr. Courchaine to Mr. Slaughter would have more chance of getting this unsatisfactory practice stopped and my writing to Mr. Alquire.

lah

cc: Chester Harvey  
Rich Christensen

Point Source Studies  
Inspection Sheet  
Survey Date MARCH 5, 1976  
Survey By M. YUSAF

Plant Name UNION STEEL PRODUCTS CO., DIV. OF EAGLE-PICHER IND.  
Location ALBION PLANT No. 1.

Personnel Contacted THEODORE C. LETZKE - PLATING FOREMAN  
RAY MARSHALL - PROPERTY SUPERVISOR.

Items to consider for enforcement action:

*Changes in 1975*

1. REVISION OF PERMIT NEEDED - SEE COMMENTS.
2. SAMPLING INADEQUATE - SEE NEXT PAGE
3. ACID STORAGE FACILITY NEEDS SCRUTINY - SEE LAST PAGE.

Comments from survey

- 1 PLANT HAS THE FOLLOWING DISCHARGES TO THE STORM SEWER, THAT  
ARE NOT COVERED IN THE PERMIT

*See* ① BOILER BLOWDOWN (INTERMITTENT).

*See* ② SOFTENER BACKWASH. PLANT USES BRINE TO REGENERATE THE TWO ION-EXCHANGE SOFTENERS

*Storm* ③ COOLING WATER FROM THE <sup>SPOT</sup> WELDING MACHINES

*Storm* ④ CONDENSATE FROM THE WATER/AIR HEAT EXCHANGER SERVING THE  
AIR COOLED COMPRESSORS.

Outfall No. 13007 (001)

Yes

No

Flow Measurement Equipment and Technique Adequate

☐

☐

Plant's Method WATER METER READING

Sample Collection Equipment and Technique Adequate

☐

☐

Plant's Method AUTOMATIC SAMPLER - NOT FLOW PROPORTIONAL. SAMPLE

~~Remarks~~ DEPOSITED IN OPEN PLASTIC VESSEL. OIL & GREASE COLLECTED IN PLASTIC BOTTLE FROM THE COMPOSITE SAMPLE.

Oil Film or Sheen noticed at outfall during Survey

☐

☒

Outfall No. 130130 (CY BATCH)

*yes*

*n*

Flow Measurement Equipment and Technique Adequate

☒

☐

Plant's Method TANK CAPACITY

Sample Collection Equipment and Technique Adequate

☒

☐

Plant's Method \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Oil Film or Sheen noticed at outfall during Survey N.A.

☐

☐

Outfall No. 130156 (CN-BATCH)

Flow Measurement Equipment and Technique Adequate

☐

☐

Plant's Method TANK CAPACITY

Sample Collection Equipment and Technique Adequate

☐

☒

Plant's Method Checks for chlorine residual but not for cyanide

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Oil Film or Sheen noticed at outfall during Survey N.A.

☐

☐

Laboratory Analysis in accordance with permit procedure

☒

☐

Remarks SPECTRONIC 20 USED FOR Cr, Zn, CN.

Are Laboratory Analysis being done at the Plant

☐

SOME  
☒

☐

If not, what Laboratory is being used

ALBION COLLEGE FOR SS, Cr<sup>6+</sup>, Tot Cr, Zn, Cu, D&R.

If using outside Laboratory, are the samples being preserved correctly

☒

☐

Remarks TESTED ON SAME DAY - NO PRESERVATION.

	Yes	No
Pollution Incident Prevention Plan Submitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified Operator at Plant During Visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidental Loss Prevention Appears Adequate		<input type="checkbox"/>

RAY MARSHALL  
DOES NOT KNOW  
G. MATHEWS  
KNOWS BUT HE  
WAS ON SICK  
LEAVE

?

Remarks ON NORTHSIDE OF PLANT ~~7~~ E. PINE ST. - THERE ARE FOUR ABOVE  
GROUND STORAGE TANKS FOR MURIATIC ACID & SULFURIC ACID.  
THERE IS NO CURBING AROUND THE TANKS. PLANT SAYS DEEP BED OF LIMESTONE AROUND  
Personnel Contacted Knowledgeable about TANKS IS SUFFICIENT.

Persons to Call in Case of Spill ☒ ☐

Remarks PLANT HAS DISTRICT No.  
CAVE CARDS OF LANSING HOTLINE TO LETZKE

Personnel Contacted Knowledgeable about NPDES Permit ☒ ☐

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Records Available for Inspection ☒ ☐

Looked at and Inspected Latest MOR at Plant ☒ ☐

Was Latest MOR Correctly Prepared ☒ ☐

Was General Maintenance of Treatment Facility Adequate ☒ ☐

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Solid and Liquid Wastes Hauled From Plant ☒ ☐

By Whom ① REUSE SERVICE INC., BATTLE CR. - VACUUM FILTER CAKE ONE DUMPSTER  
LOAD/PICK.

Are Adequate Records of Waste Haulage Being Kept ☒ ☐

② NELSON CHEMICAL DETROIT - ③ cyanide to treatment tank sludge  
④ muriatic acid tank purges } in the hot dip  
⑤ sulfuric acid " " } galvanizing  
section,